

Message Text

SECRET

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S:FORTIZ

APPROVED BY: S/S:ORTIZ

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P 181613Z AUG 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 195438 TOSEC 090037

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ISLAMABAD 7543, SENT SECSTATE, AUG 18:

QUOTE S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 7543

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM BYROADE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, US

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

REF: STATE 193875

1. DURING MY PHONE CONVERSATION WITH BHUTTO ON AUGUST 16TH, HE THANKED ME FOR YOUR MESSAGE ON THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP WHICH I HAD SENT HIM EARLIER IN THE DAY. HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE MESSAGE WAS NOT DEFINITIVE, HE DEEPLY APPRECIATED THAT BOTH YOU AND THE PRESIDENT WERE AWARE OF HIS THOUGHTS ON THIS MATTER. I WAS MYSELF PLEASED WITH THE MESSAGE AND BELIEVE THAT, COMING WHEN IT DID, IT WAS HELPFUL IN REASSURING BHUTTO ABOUT THE VALUE TO US OF OUR CLOSE RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN AND THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO HIS OWN EXPRESSIONS OF
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CONCERN ABOUT THEM. I'M MOST GRATEFUL THAT DESPITE YOUR

MANY PREOCCUPATIONS YOU WERE ABLE TO GET IT TO BHUTTO
WHEN IT WOULD DO THE MOST GOOD.

2. I CONTINUE TO EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE HE HAS BEEN
PLEASED WITH THE PERSONAL ATTENTION YOU HAVE GIVEN TO HIS
CONCERNS, BHUTTO WILL STILL BE VERY DISAPPOINTED IF PAKISTAN
IS FINALLY OMITTED FROM THE ITINERARY OF THE PRESIDENT'S
CHINA TRIP. THIS DISAPPOINTMENT, AND WITH IT HIS FEELING
THAT PAKISTAN HAS IN EFFECT BEEN VETOED BECAUSE OF THE
PRESIDENT'S (TO HIM UNDERSTANDABLE) UNWILLINGNESS TO STOP
IN INDIA, WILL BE INTENSIFIED IF THE PRESIDENT VISITS A
NUMBER OF OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES DURING HIS TOUR.

3. IF THE DECISION NOT TO VISIT INDIA AND PAKISTAN IS
CONFIRMED--AND GIVEN THE VOLATILITY OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
SUBCONTINENT I CAN APPRECIATE THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE
TO FINALIZE IT AT THIS EARLY STAGE--I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT
YOU GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO A PERSONAL LETTER FROM
THE PRESIDENT TO BHUTTO ON THE MATTER. SUCH A LETTER WOULD
BE A NATURAL FOLLOW-UP TO YOUR OWN PERSONAL MESSAGE WHICH
WAS SO WELL RECEIVED.

4. I THINK BHUTTO WOULD VALUE SUCH A MESSAGE AS A WARM AND
COURTEOUS GESTURE EVIDENCING THE CONTINUING CLOSE RELATION-
SHIP HE FEELS HE ENJOYS WITH THE PRESIDENT. TO BE
EFFECTIVE, IT SHOULD BE SENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER
THE WHITE HOUSE HAS DECIDED ON A FIRM ITINERARY AND AS FAR
IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE OF ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT. ASIDE
FROM EXPRESSING THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL DISAPPOINTMENT
AT BEING UNABLE TO RETURN BHUTTO'S VISIT OF THIS FEBRUARY
AND HIS HOPE THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT PAKISTAN SOME
TIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE, SUCH A LETTER COULD HELPFULLY
INCLUDE A REAFFIRMATION OF THE CONTINUING CLOSE RELATIONS
BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND THE US. I WOULD OF COURSE PERSONALLY
HAND THE MESSAGE TO BHUTTO AND PASS TO HIM ANY ADDITIONAL
WORD WE MIGHT WANT TO CONVEY AT THAT TIME. BYROADE UNQUOTE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CAT-C, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE195438
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S:FORTIZ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N750003-0274
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750843/aaaablrr.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 STATE 193875
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, PK, US, (FORD, GERALD R), (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006